

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHAPTER 8

AIR QUALITY

Subchapter 16

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Oil and Gas Well Facilities Operating
Prior to Issuance of a Montana Air Quality Permit

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17.8.1601 DEFINITIONS For the purposes of this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Emissions minimizing technology" means a technology that reduces the amount of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from oil and gas well facilities through the use of resource recovery as fuel for process units or technology that results in significantly lower emissions of VOCs through the use of vapor capture and introduction into a pipeline.

(2) "Initial well completion date" has the meaning provided in 75-2-211(2)(b), MCA.

(3) "Oil and gas well facility" has the meaning provided in 75-2-103(13), MCA.

(4) "Potential to emit (PTE)" means the maximum capacity of a facility or emitting unit, within physical and operational design, to emit a pollutant. Any physical or operational limitation on the capacity of the facility or emitting unit to emit a pollutant, including air pollution control equipment and restrictions on hours of operation or on the type or amount of material combusted, stored, or processed, is treated as part of its design only if the limitation or the effect it would have on emissions is federally enforceable. Secondary emissions are not considered in determining potential to emit. (History: 75-2-111, 75-2-211, MCA; IMP, 75-2-211, MCA; NEW, 2005 MAR p. 2660, Eff. 1/1/06.)

17.8.1602 APPLICABILITY AND COORDINATION WITH MONTANA AIR QUALITY PERMIT RULES (1) The requirements of this subchapter apply to oil and gas well facilities that were completed after March 16, 1979, or that were modified after March 16, 1979, and that have the potential to emit (PTE) more than 25 tons per year (TPY) of any airborne pollutant that is regulated under this chapter.

(2) Notwithstanding (1), the requirements of ARM 17.8.1603 do not apply until July 1, 2006, to oil and gas well facilities completed prior to January 3, 2006.

(3) The owner or operator of an oil and gas well facility shall submit to the department an application for a Montana air quality permit, pursuant to ARM 17.8.748, no later than January 3, 2006, or within 60 days after the initial well completion date for the facility, whichever is later.

(4) An owner or operator who complies with the requirements of this subchapter may construct, install, or use equipment necessary to complete or operate an oil or gas well facility without a permit until the department's decision on the application is final. (History: 75-2-111, 75-2-211, MCA; IMP, 75-2-211, MCA; NEW, 2005 MAR p. 2660, Eff. 1/1/06.)

17.8.1603 EMISSION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS (1) The owner or operator of an oil and gas well facility shall install and operate the following air pollution control equipment and comply with the following air pollution control practices:

(a) volatile organic compound (VOC) vapors greater than 500 British thermal units per standard cubic foot (BTU/scf) from oil and gas wellhead equipment must be routed to a gas pipeline, or, if a gas pipeline is not located within a 1/2 mile of the oil and gas well facility, VOC vapors greater than 500 BTU/scf must be captured and routed to emissions minimizing technology or to a smokeless combustion device equipped with an electronic ignition device or a continuous burning pilot system;

(b) VOC vapors greater than 500 BTU/scf from oil and condensate storage tanks with the PTE of 15 TPY or greater must be captured and routed to a gas pipeline, or if a gas pipeline is not located within a 1/2 mile of the oil and gas well facility, VOC vapors greater than 500 BTU/scf from storage tanks with the PTE of 15 TPY must be captured and routed to emissions minimizing technology, or to a smokeless combustion device equipped with an electronic ignition device or a continuous burning pilot system;

(c) hydrocarbon liquids must be loaded into transport vehicles using submerged fill technology;

(d) VOC vapors greater than 500 BTU/scf from loading transport vehicles with the PTE greater than 15 TPY must be captured and routed to a gas pipeline, or, if a gas pipeline is not located within a 1/2 mile of the oil and gas well facility, VOC vapors greater than 500 BTU/scf from loading transport vehicles with a PTE greater than 15 TPY must be routed to emissions minimizing technology, or to a smokeless combustion device equipped with an electronic ignition device or a continuous burning pilot system;

(e) stationary internal combustion engines of rich burn design greater than 85 brake horsepower (BHP) must be equipped with nonselective catalytic reduction or its equivalent to control air emissions;

(f) stationary internal combustion engines of lean burn design greater than 85 BHP must be equipped with oxidation catalytic reduction or its equivalent to control air emissions; and

(g) oil and gas well facility operations must comply with the ambient air quality standards for hydrogen sulfide and other criteria pollutants.

(2) The owner or operator of an oil and gas well facility shall operate the air pollution control equipment and comply with the air pollution control practices required in (1) from the initial well completion date for the facility until the department decision on the permit application is final. (History: 75-2-111, 75-2-211, MCA; IMP, 75-2-211, MCA; NEW, 2005 MAR p. 2660, Eff. 1/1/06.)

17.8.1604 INSPECTION AND REPAIR REQUIREMENTS (1) The owner or operator of an oil and gas well facility shall inspect all VOC piping components for leaks each calendar month. Leak detection methods may incorporate the use of sight, sound, or smell.

(2) The owner or operator shall make the first attempt to repair any leaking VOC equipment within five days after the leak is detected.

(3) Any leaking VOC equipment must be repaired as soon as practicable, but no later than 15 days after the leak is initially detected, unless the repair is technically infeasible without a facility shutdown. Such equipment shall be repaired before the end of the first facility shutdown after the leak is initially detected. (History: 75-2-111, 75-2-211, MCA; IMP, 75-2-211, MCA; NEW, 2005 MAR p. 2660, Eff. 1/1/06.)

17.8.1605 RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS (1) The owner or operator of an oil and gas well facility shall record, and maintain onsite or at a central field office, a record of each monthly inspection.

(2) Inspection records must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (a) the date of the inspection;
- (b) the findings of the inspection;
- (c) the leak determination method used;
- (d) any corrective action taken; and
- (e) the inspector's name and signature.

(3) All records of inspection and repair must be kept as a permanent business record for at least five years, be available for inspections, and be submitted to the department upon request. (History: 75-2-111, 75-2-211, MCA; IMP, 75-2-211, MCA; NEW, 2005 MAR p. 2660, Eff. 1/1/06.)

17.8.1606 DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE (1) The requirements of ARM 17.8.1601 through 17.8.1605 are not effective until January 1, 2006. (History: 75-2-111, 75-2-211, MCA; IMP, 75-2-211, MCA; NEW, 2005 MAR p. 2660, Eff. 12/23/05.)